

Ministry
of the
EnvironmentHon. Jim Bradley
MinisterRod McLeod, Q.C.
Deputy Minister

about pesticides

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The Pesticides Act and Regulations contains a number of sections that pertain to the application of pesticides by airborne machines. The safe application of pesticides on the intended target area is of prime concern to the Hazardous Contaminants Coordination Branch (HCCB) of the Ministry of the Environment. Annually, aerial exterminations control agricultural pests on approximately 32,378 hectares in southern Ontario. The following criteria have been developed for the safe application of pesticides.

LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

Aerial exterminators applying pesticides on land other than their own are required to work under a business licence (operator's licence) and have the appropriate exterminator's licence(s) for the different type of pesticides (i.e., insecticides, herbicides) being used.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS - SCHEDULE 2 HORMONE-TYPE HERBICIDES

Hormone-type herbicides (2,4-D, 2,4-DB, mecoprop, fenoprop, MCPA, MCPB, dichlorprop, dicamba, TBA, fenac, picloram) are weed control chemicals that are translocated through the system of the plant. Under the Pesticides Act, exterminators require a permit in order to apply Schedule 2 hormone-type herbicides from airborne machines. They should apply on Form 5 to the HCCB staff for approval of each application of this type of herbicide. This application for approval includes lot, concession, township, crop, pesticides and acreage for each site to be sprayed. Written application on Form 5 must be received by the local Pesticides Control Officer in adequate time for him to evaluate the area for approval for a permit. The approval is given on a permit by the Director.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS - SCHEDULE 1 OR 5 PESTICIDES

Schedule 1 or 5 pesticides (parathion, Guthion, etc.), which are very toxic, require an approval for each application due to the hazard of these pesticides or the long life of some pesticides before they break down. An application on Form 5 for approval to exterminate by aircraft must be submitted to the local Pesticides Control Officer in adequate time to give him time to evaluate the area for approval for a permit.

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APPROVAL CRITERIA

Upon receiving a Form 5, the District Pesticides Control Officer for that area inspects the crop and surrounding area. The area is mapped, with special emphasis being placed on the following questions:

1. Are there areas of the environment (e.g., streams, ponds, etc.) that will be damaged and/or contaminated by the application of these pesticides?
2. Are crops (e.g., tobacco, tomatoes, grapes, whitebeans, trefoil, etc.), susceptible to herbicide damage, growing nearby?
3. Would application of this pesticide present a health hazard to humans or livestock?

SPRAY DRIFT

The major problem with an aerial application is the complexity of factors affecting spray drift. Included in these factors are wind velocity, microclimate, speed and altitude of the aircraft, and size of spray droplets. These factors make it difficult to make an exact estimate on how far the material will actually drift; however, if material is applied properly, drift is not expected to exceed 60 metres.

APPROVAL

All approvals are issued by the Director. As in the past, we will give conditional approvals when it is felt that there will be no hazards from spraying under specific conditions.

RECORDS

The Pesticides Act and Regulations require the exterminating company and exterminator (pilot) to keep a record on Form 6 of all exterminations, regardless of the pesticide(s) being used. All required data listed on this form must be recorded for each extermination. This record must be kept for at least one (1) year after the extermination is completed.

SAFETY

The "Pesticides Safety Handbook" which each exterminator receives as part of his examination study material covers the following:

- a) Pesticides Storage
- b) Disposal of Empty Containers and Unwanted Pesticides
- c) Transportation of Pesticides
- d) Protection of the Public and the Environment
- e) Decontamination
- f) Medical Resources

Emergency calls concerning fire, spills and/or contamination, aircraft accidents, etc., should be reported immediately to the Agricultural and Industrial Chemicals Section, HCCB, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, 135 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto. Telephone: (416) 965-2401 and your local office:

Don Mills	7 Overlea Blvd, 4th Floor	416	424-3000
Peterborough	139 George Street	705	743-2972
Hamilton	119 King Street West	416	521-7640
Sudbury	199 Larch Street	705	675-4501
Thunder Bay	435 James Street South	809	475-1215
Kingston	133 Dalton Avenue	613	549-4000
Ottawa	2378 Holly Lane	613	521-3450
London	985 Adelaide Street South	519	681-3600
Chatham	435 Grand Avenue West	519	354-2150
Clinton	Ont. Ministry of Agriculture and Food	519	482-3428

INQUIRIES

Additional information may also be obtained concerning this topic or others involving the sale and use of pesticides from the offices listed above.